



REMARKS

I. As to the Specification

A grammatical error occurring in the last paragraph of Page 7 has been corrected. A typographical error - the inclusion of two periods at the end of the last sentence in the same paragraph - has also been corrected.

II. As to the Drawings

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), the Examiner objected to the drawings on the basis that they failed to disclose a feature specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner contended that the drawings failed to disclose "...a first barrier edge facing the free end of the exposed strands, wherein the first barrier edge assumes the form of a truncated cone."

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. FIGs. 7 and 8 show the first barrier edge as a truncated cone. FIG. 7 shows a first barrier (26) having a first barrier edge (30) facing the free end of the exposed strands (in their undeflected state). FIG. 7 is a sectional view through radially symmetric parts. The section of the barrier edge is inclined (Compare to the uninclined embodiment shown in FIG. 6). The inclined edge, when revolved around the central axis of revolution, clearly defines a truncated cone. An exemplary truncated cone surface is depicted in Exhibit 1, which is attached hereto as an aid to visualization.

FIG. 8 also discloses a barrier edge in the form of a truncated cone, though it is sloped in the opposite direction. FIG. 12 discloses a barrier edge in the form of a truncated cone, which is sloped in the same direction as FIG. 7.

III. As to the Claims

Claim 2 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 were made redundant by this action and - accordingly - they have been canceled.



Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of February, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wiley Horton", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN WILEY HORTON

Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell
& Dunbar, P.A.

P.O. Drawer 10095

Tallahassee, FL 32302-2095

850-222-3533

Reg. No. 41,851

Attorney for Applicant